



PRESS RELEASE

U.S. EMBASSY RANGOON

110 University Avenue, Kamayut Township, Rangoon, Burma

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President Obama's Remarks on Syrian Government Chemical Weapons Attack

Yangon – The United States Government assesses with high confidence that the Syrian government carried out a chemical weapons attack in the Damascus suburbs on August 21, 2013, resulting in a large number of casualties, including the deaths of 1,429 people, among them 426 children. We further assess that the regime used a nerve agent in the attack. On August 31, President Barack Obama further detailed the use by the Syrian government of chemical weapons against its own people, remarks intended to reinforce the commitment of the international community to hold the Asad regime accountable for its unconscionable actions. The United States has undertaken a careful review of all available evidence surrounding the horrific attacks on August 21, evidence laid out in an unclassified assessment and map of attack area, released on August 31 (links below).

As the President announced on August 31, the United States is prepared to engage in military action to hold the Asad regime accountable for its use of chemical weapons, deter this kind of behavior, and degrade the regime's capacity to carry it out again. In the President's view, military action is needed to deter the further use of chemical weapons. The Asad regime's actions are a danger to the United States' friends and partners in the region and could lead to the escalating use of chemical weapons or their proliferation to terrorist groups. The President's decision to seek Congressional authorization means that we will have stronger support for U.S. military action.

The United States is encouraging all governments to publicly call on the Asad regime to heed the demand of the international community that its use of chemical weapons counters a fundamental principle of international law and is never to be repeated.

For the video and full text of President Obama's remarks, please visit:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2013/08/31/president-obamas-statement-syria>

For a full text of the unclassified assessment, please visit:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/08/30/government-assessment-syrian-government-s-use-chemical-weapons-august-21>

For a map of the area in Syria affected by the chemical weapons attack please visit:
http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/docs/2013-08-30_map_accompanying_usg_assessment_on_syria.pdf

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